

of marriage, by love or capture.<sup>1</sup> Finally, religion bears its share in furnishing motives for child marriage. The souls of ancestors cannot stay in heaven unless there are male descendants to keep up the sacrifices. It is, therefore, impossible to provide male descendants too soon. Among the Tamil-speaking Malaialis of the Kollimallais hills a man takes an adult wife for his little son, and with her he begets a son who will perform this religious duty for himself and his son. This goes on from generation to generation.<sup>2</sup>

402. Nevertheless, it is held to be proved that in ancient India child marriages were unknown and that women were often far beyond puberty before they were married. The human husband was also held to be the fourth. Three gods had preceded him in each case.<sup>3</sup> The custom of child marriage has now spread to the lowest classes, and in the lowlands of the Ganges cohabitation follows at once upon child marriage, with very evil results on the physique of the population.<sup>4</sup>

There was child marriage in Chaldea 2200 years B.C.<sup>5</sup>

403. Child marriage in Europe. The marriage of children was not in the mores of the ancient Germans. The mediaeval church allowed child marriage for princes, etc. The motive was political alliance, or family or property interest.<sup>6</sup> The fable was that Joseph was an old man and the Virgin Mary only a girl. This story was invented to make the notion of a virgin wife and mother easier. The marriage was only a child marriage. In England, from the end of the thirteenth to late in the seventeenth century, cases of child marriage occurred, at first in the highest classes, later in all classes, and finally most frequently in the highest and lowest classes. In Scotland

premature marriages were so common that, in 1600, they were forbidden, the limits being set at fourteen and twelve years for males and females respectively. The chief motive was to avoid feudal dues on the part of tenants in chief of the crown, if the father should

- <sup>1</sup> 4 *PoL-Anth. Rev.*, III, 711. Jolly, *Recht und Sitte*, 54.  
<sup>2</sup> *Madras Gov. Mus.*, II, 162. & Winckler, *Gesetze des Hammw-*  
<sup>3</sup> Monier-Williams, *Brahmanism and rabi*, 22.  
*Hinduism*, 354. 6 Grimm, *Rechts-Alt.*, 436.